



# *Info@starklawlibrary.org*

*Stark County Law Library Association*

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## **BEGINNERS**

## **A Potpourri of Sites**

**The email address, info@starklawlibrary.org really works! TRY IT!!**

Instead of concentrating on just one site, this week I have several good sites that just need a little explanation

The first is a site that I use a lot when I get stymied. It is called One Look Reverse Dictionary at <http://www.onelook.com/reverse-dictionary.shtml>. I'm sure you are familiar with reverse phone or address directories - this is just a bit more complicated. At this site you "type in a series of words or phrases describing a concept and in response you get a list of the words (or sometimes phrases) suggested by your input with the best matches shown first." <sup>1</sup> Check out the examples on their home page for some good illustrations of how this site can be used.

Our second site is the latest entry in the field of automated, online dispute resolution, The Courthouse Steps, located at

<http://www.thecourthousesteps.com/index.cfm>. "It appears to be similar in operation to one of the older kids on this virtual block, Cybersettle.com, <http://www.cybersettle.com/info/main.aspx> in that offers and demands are compared electronically and the matter is settled if preset parameters are met." <sup>2</sup> If you are unfamiliar with automated dispute resolution, have a look!

The last site is unique, in that they try to "provide real information of assistance to injured victims or... personal injury lawyers." <sup>3</sup> The lawyers at Miller & Zois, LLC are using Web 2.0 technology by participating in the open-source lawyering movement, sharing information on the Attorney Help Center page of their website <http://www.millerandzois.com/maryland-personal-injury-attorney-FAQ.html>. <sup>4</sup> "At the Attorney Help Center, you will

## BEGINNERS (Cont.) A Potpourri of Sites

find sample pleadings, motions, discovery, jury instructions, and more. An example of what is offered is "Plaintiff's First Request for Admissions" <[http://www.millerandzois.com/Plaintiffs\\_First\\_Request\\_for\\_Admissions.html](http://www.millerandzois.com/Plaintiffs_First_Request_for_Admissions.html)>, a comprehensive set of requests for admissions in a vehicle injury case that would work as a model in most states.”<sup>5</sup>

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## INTERMEDIATE RSS

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One quick, last comment on email before we move on. Last month there wasn't room to mention a neat new service you may find useful. It's called WaxMail <<http://www.waxmail.biz/>>. This free program records your email message in MP3 format and then attaches it to any Outlook message. "Have a long message to send to someone, and just don't feel like typing it?" - here's your answer.<sup>6</sup>

Now, on to our topic of the month, really simple syndication. Simply put, RSS is the best way to keep up-to-date on a specific topic or a variety of websites.

One of the best uses of RSS technology is to monitor what is being said about your firm on the Internet. Doyle Albee,

<[http://michael.dvcotechnology.com/metzger/index.php?s=team\\_bios&item=5](http://michael.dvcotechnology.com/metzger/index.php?s=team_bios&item=5)> a strategic communications manager, says of RSS:

This allows you to almost immediately capitalize on good publicity or take steps to defuse bad publicity. As many have learned—ignore at your own peril what is being said about your firm or your company in the blogosphere!

Another benefit is that RSS is very attractive to search engines, giving your firm's content a higher ranking in search-engine results.

Today's audiences are active and interactive consumers of business information. Increasingly they expect their lawyers and law firms to communicate with them

**INTERMEDIATE (Cont)****RSS**

interactively, using the next generation of electronic communication tools. Among these tools are RSS feeds, Web logs, and podcasts.<sup>7</sup>

To subscribe to and look at RSS feeds, you will need an aggregator. There are many to choose from, but I'll list a few to get you started. Alphabetically, in order not to be preferential, some examples are:

- AmphetaDesk <<http://www.disobey.com/amphetadesk/>> free

- Bloglines <<http://www.bloglines.com/>> also free
- FeedDemon <<http://www.bradsoft.com/feeddemon/>> \$30
- Newsgator <<http://www.newsgator.com/home.aspx>> free and delivered directly into Outlook.

For a list of more aggregators and full descriptions of the ones I have listed, go to Technology at Harvard Law <<http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/tech/directory/5/aggregators>>.

**ADVANCED****Law 2.0**

Web 2.0 inevitably leads us to a discussion of Law 2.0. If you read the previous section on RSS and are considering using it, you are already a part of Law 2.0.

Industry leaders are using Web 2.0 technology. Westlaw is using RSS feeds in its IntraClip service, allowing subscribers to create search watchlists.<sup>8</sup> And Martindale Hubbell uses the new “vertical searching” on its

new LexisNexis Martindale Hubble business unit at <<http://www.martindale.com/>>.

Vertical searching mines data for one narrow niche of a vast market place and presents this fragmented data in a manner that is simple to use. It is really a “meta search for niches.”<sup>9</sup>

**ADVANCED (Cont)****Law 2.0**

Another aspect of Law 2.0 is WikiLaw <<http://wiki-law.org/mwiki/index.php?title=Wikilaw>About>>, whose goal is to build the largest open-content legal resource in the world. “In addition to providing Wiki-Treatises on various topics, the creators also hope to start Wiki-Case Briefs, a Wiki-Law Review, Wiki-Motions, and more.”<sup>10</sup> Another legal wiki is Cornell Law School’s Wex <[http://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/index.php/Main\\_Page](http://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/index.php/Main_Page)> a collaboratively-created, public-access law dictionary and encyclopedia, which unlike Wikilaw, will use approved editors and contributors.

The level of authority of any wiki had been debated widely of late. But the more lawyers, like YOU, who contribute to these two experiments, the more authoritative they will become.

An entirely different aspect of Law 2.0 is how Congress could use the Internet in creating law. The UCC was one of the first laws created by committee but required in-person meetings by select drafters in each state.<sup>11</sup> If they had used Writely <<http://www.writely.com/>> (which we discussed last week), they could have shared documents and collaborated in real time from anywhere. Or they could have used a wiki to allow the public to comment on proposed statutes.

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## FOOTNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> Calloway, Jim. "Site of the Week: One Look Reverse Dictionary." Jim Calloway's Law Practice Tips Blog. 28 October 2005. TypePad. 9 February 2006. <[http://jimcalloway.typepad.com/lawpracticetips/2005/10/site\\_of\\_the\\_wee\\_3.html](http://jimcalloway.typepad.com/lawpracticetips/2005/10/site_of_the_wee_3.html)>.
- <sup>2</sup> Ambrogi, Robert. "New Source for Online Dispute Resolution." Robert Ambrogi's Lawsites. 13 December 2005. Blogger. 9 February 2006. <<http://www.legaline.com/2005/12/new-source-for-online-dispute.html>>.
- <sup>3-5</sup> Schaeffer, Evan. "Lawyers Who Share Their Expertise for Free." The Illinois Trial Practice Weblog. 6 January 2006. Creative Commons. 13 February 2006. <[http://www.illinoistrialpractice.com/2006/01/lawyers\\_who\\_sha.html](http://www.illinoistrialpractice.com/2006/01/lawyers_who_sha.html)>. [Be sure to read the comments section of this blog post. There is a lot of good information here!]
- <sup>6</sup> Mighell, Tom. Internet Legal Research Weekly. Volume 7, Issue 1. 8 January 2006. Subscribe by email to tom(at)inter-alia(dot)net, or go to <<http://www.inter-alia.net>> and sign up.
- <sup>7</sup> Raasch, Janet Ellen. "RSS Feeds, Blogs and Podcasts—Oh My! New Media Marketing Makes Sense for Lawyers." The Law Marketing Portal. 8 October 2005. Law Firm Marketing Institute. 16 February 2006. <<http://www.lawmarketing.com/pages/articles.asp?Action=Article&ArticleCategoryID=13&ArticleID=424>>.
- <sup>8</sup> Neunsinger, Katie. "West Builds Cutting-Edge RSS Technology into West IntraClip Service." Thompson - West. 24 June 2004. Thompson. 17 February 2006. <<http://west.thomson.com/news/releases/rsstech.asp?cookie%5Ftest=1>>.
- <sup>9</sup> "Law 2.0 Through the Martindale-Hubbell Telescope." The Wired GC. 13 December 2005. WordPress. 21 February 2006. <<http://www.wiredgc.com/2005/12/13/law-20-through-the-martindale-hubbell-telescope/>>.
- <sup>10</sup> Kennedy, Dennis and Tom Mighell. "Web 2.0." ABAnetwork. January 2006. The American Bar Association. 21 February 2006. <<http://www.abanet.org/lpm/lpt/articles/slc01061.html>>.
- <sup>11</sup> "Does Web 2.0 Point Us Toward Law 2.0?" ABAnetwork. January 2006. The American Bar Association. 21 February 2006. <<http://www.abanet.org/lpm/lpt/articles/tch01061.html>>.